

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR ELTN ETRD CH
SUBJ: JAPANESE VIEWS ON PRC TOURISM, AVIATION AND LAND
TRANSPORTATION; VISITING JAPANESE TRANSPORTATION DELEGATION

REF: A) PEKING 1974, B) PEKING 1373

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR
TRANSPORTATION MATTERS NOTES THAT AIR PASSENGER
TRAFFIC BETWEEN PEKING AND TOKYO HAS INCREASED
SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE EARLY 1977. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR
CONTINUED GROWTH AND JAPAN AIRLINES WILL PROBABLY
INCREASE FLIGHTS TO PEKING, MAKING USE AFTER 1978
OF PEKING'S NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL. A RECENT
JAPANESE AUTO INDUSTRY DELEGATION HELD DISCUSSIONS
WHICH WILL PROBABLY LEAD TO IMPORTS OF AUTO PARTS
PLANTS AND TECHNOLOGY. A JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
DELEGATION, NOW IN CHINA, WILL OFFER TECHNICAL ADVICE
ON SPECIFIC RAIL TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WHILE VISITING
RAILWAY BUREAUS IN PEKING, NANKING AND SHANGHAI.
END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION
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MATTERS (PROTECT SOURCING) TOLD USLO ON
SEPTEMBER 28 THAT THE JAPANESE TRAVEL INDUSTRY
EXPECTS SOME 15,000 TOURISTS TO VISIT CHINA FROM
JAPAN THIS YEAR. (NOTE: OTHER JAPANESE SOURCES
PLACE ALL VISITORS FROM JAPAN AT OVER 20,000.)
AT PRESENT, AND DESPITE AN ESTIMATED COST OF
\$1,500 FOR TWO WEEKS OF TOURISM, DEMAND FAR

EXCEEDS PRC ABILITY TO ACCEPT TOURISTS. THE TWO MAIN BOTTLENECKS IN TOURISM EXPANSION ARE THE LIMITED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AND STILL INADEQUATE HOTEL SPACE. TOURISM HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY SINCE EARLY 1977 AND THE OUTLOOK IS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH. JAL FLIGHTS ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED AND JAL IS PLANNING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS ON WHAT HAS BECOME A VERY BUSY TOKYO-PEKING ROUTE. THE NEW RUNWAY AT PEKING AIRPORT IS COMPLETED OR VERY NEAR COMPLETION AND WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC (REF A). JAPANESE EMBOFF BELIEVES HOWEVER THAT INSTALLATION OF NEW AVIATION EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE END OF 1978 AND EXPECTS ACTUAL OPENING OF THE NEW TERMINAL IN 1979. (NOTE: A RECENT "MAINICHI SHIMBUN" ARTICLE REPORTS THAT THE NEW RUNWAY IS 3,200 METERS IN LENGTH AND 60 METERS WIDE AND THAT APRON AREA TO BE ADDED IS FOUR TIMES AS LARGE AS PRESENT AREA.)

3. EMBOFF STATED THAT THE JAPANESE AUTO INDUSTRY DELEGATION THAT VISITED PEKING IN MID-SEPTEMBER HAD DISCUSSED EXPORTS TO THE PRC OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS, AND WHOLE PLANTS AND TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE PARTS. THE CHINESE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION HAS FALLEN FAR BEHIND NEEDS. CONFIDENTIAL

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(REF B REPORTED THAT TWO EUROPEAN FIRMS WERE NEGOTIATING IN JULY FOR THE SALE OF A STEEL CASTING PLANT TO PRODUCE AUTOMOTIVE ENGINE BLOCKS AND PARTS. KNOWLEDGEABLE U.S. TRADERS HAVE INFORMED USLO THAT THE DEAL WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE WEST GERMAN AND SWISS FIRMS RECEIVING CONTRACTS WORTH \$15 MILLION AND \$5 MILLION, RESPECTIVELY.)

4. EMBOFF SAID THAT A JAPANESE NATIONAL RAILWAYS DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED IN PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 27 WILL BRIEF PRC BUREAUCRATS AND END-USERS ON CURRENT JAPANESE RAILROAD TECHNOLOGY. THE DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH THE PRC RAILWAYS MINISTRY AND VISIT RAILWAY BUREAUS AND INSTITUTES IN PEKING, NANKING AND SHANGHAI BEFORE RETURNING TO JAPAN IN MID-OCTOBER. JAPANESE EMBOFF BELIEVES THAT TWO MAIN PRC WEAKNESSES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL: THE FIRST IS INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING DATA PROCESSING AND SIGNALING. THE SECOND IS CARGO AND CAR HANDLING WITHIN THE STATION, INCLUDING MARSHALLING YARD TECHNOLOGY AND LOADING

AND UNLOADING EQUIPMENT. EMBOFF WILL ACCOMPANY
THIS DELEGATION IN CHINA AND PLANS TO BRIEF
USLO AFTER ITS DEPARTURE.
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